THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 3rd March 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Accidents due to lighting of crackers.

* 218[a] *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the number of accidents which had taken place in the State due to lighting of crackers; and

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take to avoid such accidents in future?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter will be considered by the Government."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI:—" Sir, have the Government issued instructions to wholesale or retail dealers who may be in possession of such crackers just to dispose them of without selling them? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" We cannot issue any instructions like that. We can only place restrictions on storage of these crackers. I do not think we can issue any instructions that they should be disposed of in a particular way."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI:—" In view of the fact that crackers called atom bombs and the material that is scratched on the ground to produce some sound like Chada-Chada, are very risky to public health and risky to children, will the Government issue a notification even now sufficiently in advance to prevent the manufacture of these two articles long before Deepavali and if necessary ban them? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" This question is being examined."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN:—" Sir, will the Government consider the possibility of preventing the manufacture of certain kinds of crackers that are likely to produce very intense sound? Is there any separate Act preventing this? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" This question requires examination of the legal complications involved in it. As soon as the examination is over, we shall take action."

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[a] Question postponed from the list of questions for 2nd March 1955.